Abraham Lincoln

Victoria Manheim
Oregon High School, Oregon
Teacher: Sara Werckle

Abraham Lincoln achieved a good deal during his life. When Lincoln first began in politics, he started in a little town called New Salem. Lincoln accomplished various tasks when he first started. One in particular, was when he was selected to be one of the captains during a war between the Americans and the Sac and Fox tribes for territorial land. This accomplishment led him to gain recognition across Illinois.

Around 1831, Lincoln's father decided to pick up their lives again, but Lincoln decided it was time to branch off and start his own life. He decided to settle in a little town called New Salem, Illinois. When he first arrived there his first job was as a clerk in the Offutt store. In the store, he got to know numerous people living in New Salem.

Once April began, Chief Black Hawk and his two tribes, the Sac and Fox, crossed the Mississippi River to "plant" corn. The Indians' arrival made many people panic. Governor Reynolds asked for volunteers to help him get the Indians back on their side of the Mississippi River. Lincoln saw that his employer was failing; so, he decided to enlist in the militia for 30 days. Each company in the militia had to pick a captain of their choice. Lincoln was chosen to be the captain of his company. Most of the men in Lincoln's company were from New Salem, and a huge majority of them chose Lincoln. "Then came the Black-Hawk war; and I was elected a Captain of Volunteers -- a success which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since," Lincoln said later. After the

Black Hawk War was over, Lincoln had enlisted in the militia two more times, for another 30 days. Not once did Lincoln see any fighting during the war.

When Lincoln arrived back to New Salem after the Black Hawk War, he started campaigning for the state legislature in the August election. He traveled to many towns to speak about himself. Pappsville was one of the towns that asked Lincoln to come and speak to them. He said, "Fellow citizens, I presume you all know who I am-I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by many friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My policies are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a National Bank, I am in favor of the Internal improvement system, and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected I shall be thankful; and if not, it will be all the same."

Lincoln lost the election in 1832, but he gained an enthusiasm for politics that would stay with him. "I am glad I made the late race. It gave me a hearing on the great and durable question of the age, which I could have had in no other way; and though I now sink out of view, and shall be forgotten, I believe I have made some marks which will tell for the cause of civil liberty long after I am gone." In the election there had been 13 candidates and 8,315 votes. Lincoln had received 675 votes during the August election. New Salem had 300 votes, and 277 of those votes leaned to Lincoln. The war helped Lincoln become a better leader, and helped him get that much closer to becoming an idol for his entire fellow Americans. [From Mike Ballard, "Lincoln's New Salem Days." *The National Parks Service.* August 1998 http://www.nps.gov/archive/liho/newsalem.htm (Sept.10, 2008.); Roy P. Basler, "Lincoln." *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln.* 1995. http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/quotes.htm (Sept. 9, 2008.);

Robert Braun, "Abraham Lincoln's Military Service During Black Hawk War."

November 2003 http://www.geocities.com/old_lead/abe.htm (Sept. 5, 2008.);

James Lewis, "The Black Hawk War of 1832." *Chicago Historical Society.* 2000.

October 2000 http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu/blackhawk/index.html (Sept. 7, 2008.);

Lincoln. "Lincoln." *The History Place.* 1995. 4 July 1996
http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/index.html (Sept. 8, 2008.).]